



Meeting time & place: Tuesday, February 17th, 2011. Big Sky Bistro, Polson, 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Theresa Jones from St. Luke Community Healthcare; Marilyn Becker from Office of Public Assistance; Karen Dellwo from First Interstate Bank; Donna Mitchell from Kicking Horse Job Corps; and Debbie Krantz, Todd Erickson, and Whitney Cantlon from Lake County Job Service.

Speaker: Mark Rochin from Polson High School updated the Committee on the resurrection and growth of the Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) program here in Polson. JMG was started in New Jersey in 1984, to combat the high dropout rate. The program has been in Montana since 1990. The program focuses on employment and life skills, such as phone communication, resumes, and job shadowing. There are currently 30 schools in MT with JMG classes, and it has dramatically impacted the number of high school dropouts, with approximately a 92% success rate. Mark is the JMG Educator and Coordinator at Polson High School. In the first semester of this year, he had 6 students and this semester he has 19, so there has been a lot of interest in the course. It is currently offered as an elective, but Mark would eventually like to see it be a mandated course for graduation, as it is in Plains. Mark would also like to see JMG and JSEC partner to help establish local job shadowing sites for the students. Employers would also be welcome to come in and present to the class, as Todd did recently and was well received. More information on this program can be found on the JMG website: <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/jmg/jmg.asp>.

Treasurer's Report: Per Jessie by email our current balance is \$6,716.81. This includes sponsorship money for the Career Fair booklet (more information in Career Fair Update notes).

Old Business:

Review/Approve Minutes: Committee reviewed minutes from December, as no business was transacted at the January meeting. Donna motioned to approve minutes as written, motion seconded by Marilyn.

Top Five "Hot Topics" for Employers: Card Sample: Todd and Whitney passed around a "test business card" for discussion/suggestions. Everyone liked the layout as is. This will be a great marketing tool for presentations and employer visits. It will also help provide general information and hopefully help us generate interest in JSEC.

Career Fair and Sponsor Update: Todd informed the committee that Polson High School will be sending 19 students to the Career Fair and Ronan may bring 5. Job Service is responsible for raising money for the booklet, which costs \$1,053 for 600 or \$1,246.96 for 700. This year, we increased our order to 700 (can be used for marketing

when asking for sponsors) and we've raised \$1,075 so far. We only have \$172 to go. Todd shared a list of the sponsoring businesses for this year. *Wal-Mart approached us at the Career Fair and mentioned that they would like to be a booklet sponsor next year.

New Business:

Newsletter: Mail vs. Email: Todd wondered whether it's easier for the committee to receive the JSEC newsletter by mail or e-mail. All committee members said e-mail is easier. We will continue to print some out which we will use as a marketing tool by including them with the new 5-1 posters. Todd also thought it might be a good idea to somehow link our newsletter to the Chambergram. Karen will visit with Jeremy Morgret to see what we can work out. Ronan will also have their website up in a few months and we could link to that as well.

SHRM Membership for Todd: The committee voted regarding whether to continue sponsoring Todd's SHRM membership, which cost \$180 this year. Todd explained that SHRM is going through the same issues JSEC is (difficulty in membership attendance and time commitment constraints). He said SHRM is a great resource for him, in areas such as interviewing tips & techniques as well as for other updated employer resources and issues. He uses this information in his presentations and to assist businesses. Karen motioned to approve the expense and Donna seconded the motion.

Repayment of Grant to MSEC: Karen mentioned that MCSEC gave our local JSEC a \$300 grant back in 2005, when we were struggling financially. MSEC provides these funds, which are used to help support local JSEC's, with the possibility that it would be paid back. Karen did see this in MSEC's minutes from that time frame and Todd found a thank you letter he wrote after we had received the funds. Karen suggested that we pay MSEC back, now that we can afford it. Her hope was that, by paying the funds back, other JSEC chapters might be able to take advantage of the same opportunity. Marilyn mentioned that we have been successful in bringing in sponsors to help with local conference expenses and fundraising. She feels we will continue to utilize this resource to keep our balance stable. Marilyn motioned to approve the repayment of \$300, Karen seconded it. All in favor; none opposed.

Workshop & Resources: The workshop committee (Todd, Whitney, Jessie, & Heather) met last month and brought up a suggestion for a late spring conference, maybe in May. KwaTaqNuk might be willing to partner with us for a ½ day customer service workshop. The committee brainstormed ideas of other presenters to keep in mind, if not for this year, maybe in future years. The Workshop Committee is hoping to finalize our plans by our next meeting so we can start advertising and making the necessary arrangements.

Brainstorming: The Committee brainstormed ideas for increasing membership and drawing employers to our meetings. Everyone agreed that it's time to freshen up our meetings and discussed ways we could do that. Debbie mentioned that we need to create something "value added" to supplement our meetings. We discussed offering valuable presentations, like we did with Chris Wheeler from UI, every other meeting. Marilyn liked how today's meeting ran, with the presentation first, so that we have about an hour for the presentation and then half an hour for the meeting. Todd asked how the new meeting location at the Bistro was acceptable, and everyone liked the change. We also brainstormed employers we could recruit for JSEC, such as Mission Valley Power and

S&K Electronics. Julie Berry, Ex Director, of The Big Sky Bistro has been approached about becoming a JSEC member.

Next Meeting: The committee decided to try switching our meeting to the first Tuesday of the month, instead of the fourth. So our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Sky Bistro.